



Borough of Scarborough

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health, Sanitary Conditions, &c., of
the Borough of Scarborough
for the year 1944


BY

STANLEY FOX LINTON,
T.D., M.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health. School Medical Officer.
Medical Superintendent of the Corporation Sanatorium.

SCARBOROUGH

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
SCARBOROUGH.
March, 1946

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

As suggested by the Ministry of Health, it does no more than "deal briefly with subjects of current interest."

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. FOX LINTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Scarborough.*

STAFF	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME
Medical Officer of Health (who is also School Medical Officer)	1	-
Assistant Medical Officer of Health (who is also Assistant School Medical Officer) ...	1	-
Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist ...	-	1
Health Visitors	2	1
Chief Sanitary Inspector	1	-
*Sanitary Inspectors	1	1
Assistant Sanitary Inspector (unqualified) ...	1	-
Chief Clerk	1	-
Clerks	3	-

* One Sanitary Inspector left at the end of 1943 and was not replaced.

BOROUGH OF SCARBOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT (A) VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

Registrar-General's estimate (mid-year) 35,700.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS.		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	... ..	312	295	607
Illegitimate	... ..	32	40	72
		<u>344</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>679</u>

BIRTH-RATE ... 19.0

This is the highest local birth-rate since 1920 when it was 20.1.

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
STILL-BIRTHS	... ..	5	9	14
„ „	rate per 1,000 live births	...	21	

DEATHS.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	268	362	630

DEATH-RATE ... 17.6

„ corrected for age and sex constitution of population, 14.3.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

			MALE	FEMALE
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	... ..		-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	... ..		1	-
Scarlet fever	... ..		-	-
Whooping cough	... ..		-	-
Diphtheria	... ..		-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	... ..		11	7
Other forms of tuberculosis	... ..		2	1
Syphilitic diseases	... ..		2	2
Influenza	... ..		3	4
Measles	... ..		-	-
Acute poliomyelitis and encephalitis	... ..		-	-
Acute infantile encephalitis	... ..		1	-
Cancer, malignant disease	... ..		31	58
Diabetes	... ..		1	3
Intracranial vascular lesions	... ..		29	48
Heart disease	... ..		80	127
Other disease of circulatory system	... ..		19	27
Bronchitis	... ..		12	4
Pneumonia	... ..		10	8
Other respiratory diseases	... ..		6	4
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	... ..		7	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years	... ..		-	-
Appendicitis	... ..		-	2
Other digestive diseases	... ..		-	10
Nephritis	... ..		9	11
Puerperal sepsis	... ..		-	1
Other maternal causes	... ..		-	1
Premature birth	... ..		5	7
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	... ..		6	2
Suicide	... ..		1	2
Road traffic accidents	... ..		1	3
Other violent causes	... ..		8	5
All other causes	... ..		23	23
		TOTALS	<u>268</u>	<u>362</u>

INFANT MORTALITY.

Number of deaths under 1 year	...	29
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	43

This is a little lower than the England and Wales rate which was 46. At ages under 4 weeks, we had 21 deaths (including 13 from premature birth) giving a rate of 30.9. At ages from 1 month to 1 year we had only 8 deaths, giving the low rate (for this country) of 11.8.

Of the premature births, 5 occurred in their own homes, 4 in the Maternity Ward at the Hospital, (including 1 due to maternal toxæmia), 2 in the County Maternity Home (including 1 case of induction for maternal toxæmia) and 2 in the Stamford House Nursing Home, one of which was a twin.

In 1943, it will be remembered, we had only 2 deaths from premature birth; it is disappointing to have 13 in 1944: a much lower number will be reported in 1945.

In March, 1944, the Ministry of Health issued a circular on the Care of Premature Infants. Most of the recommendations made in it are not practicable at present, as the Ministry admits. Special attention is already given to these infants, and home help is available. A special draught proof cot with detachable linings has been provided in the Maternity Ward.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	...	...	1
Deaths from other puerperal causes	...	...	1

There is nothing out of the way in these figures, but mortality rates based on them would be of little significance.

(B) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

MATERNITY CLINICS.

Throughout the year the weekly ante-natal and post-natal clinics were held by Dr. Cameron.

Miss Ealing, the Borough Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, held monthly ante-natal and monthly post-natal consultant clinics, and also a monthly gynaecological clinic; patients found to be in need of operative treatment for gynaecological conditions were admitted to a Nursing Home under Miss Ealing's care; they contribute to the cost according to an income scale. During the year 43 patients were admitted to the Stamford Nursing Home for operation. This service was begun in May, 1941, and the growing use of it shows that it meets a need.

MIDWIVES.

The Corporation subsidises the Scarborough District Nursing Association to provide domiciliary midwifery in the town. During the year the Association midwives attended 182 cases as midwives and 35 as maternity nurses.

The services of Miss Ealing, the Borough Consultant in obstetrics, were available at all times for any doctor in doubt or difficulty with a maternity case.

MATERNITY BEDS.

The Corporation Maternity Ward in the Scarborough Hospital is a unit of 12 beds under the care of Miss Ealing. It is not large enough to meet the demand, and patients were also sent to the County Maternity Home at the Institution in Dean Road, or to a nursing home.

Numbers of admissions were as follows :

Maternity Ward	...	...	...	263
County Maternity Home	...	...	...	135
Dybdale Nursing Home	...	...	...	6

In the Maternity Ward 214 babies were born, including 7 sets of twins; there were also 9 still births.

There were also admitted to the Maternity Ward 42 patients for ante-natal and 1 for post-natal treatment. 4 patients were admitted after the births of their babies.

There were no maternal deaths.

Neo-natal deaths numbered 5.

All emergency and abnormal cases are admitted to the Maternity Ward; only normal straightforward cases are sent elsewhere.

CHILD WELFARE.

Weekly clinics at Crescent House and Seamer Road continued throughout the year, with large attendances.

The Health Visitors (2 full time and 1 half time) did as much home visiting as they could, but work at the Centre takes more of their time than it used to. They paid 58 visits to expectant mothers and 3,476 to children under 5.

The weekly orthopædic clinic was held by the Sister from the Adela Shaw Orthopædic Hospital, Kirbymoorside. The Orthopædic Surgeon attends this once a month. 2 children were admitted to the Orthopædic Hospital during the year at the cost of the Maternity & Child Welfare Committee, 3 at the cost of the Education Committee and 2 tuberculosis cases at the cost of the North Riding County Council.

(C) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No infectious disease was epidemic during the year. Numbers of notified cases (civilians only) were as follows :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	40
Whooping Cough	...	...	30
Diphtheria	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	4
Measles	...	...	27
Pneumonia	...	...	54
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	9
Acute polio-myelitis	...	...	2
Acute polio-encephalitis	...	...	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	5

In no previous year since notification was begun 55 years ago, have there been so few cases of diphtheria. This is to be ascribed to the fact that 60 per cent. of the children in the town have been immunised against diphtheria. During the year 500 children (363 under 5 years and 137 ages 5-14) completed a course of immunisation.

The immunising agent used is T.A.F. given in three fortnightly injections. Every child is Schick tested for immunity after a 3 months' interval. A very few (1 to 2 per cent.) are found to be still non-immune. These children are given two further injections, this time of A.P.T. with a month's interval between them, and after a further 3 months they are tested again.

Admissions to the Sanatorium (Isolation Hospital) — civilians and non-civilians — were as follows :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	84
Whooping Cough	...	...	6
Diphtheria	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	4
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	3
Vincent's Angina	...	...	5
Chicken Pox	...	...	10
Mumps	...	...	8
Tonsillitis	...	...	7
German Measles	...	...	15
Scabies and Impetigo	...	...	26
Observation	...	...	3
			<hr/> 186 <hr/>

(D) WATER SUPPLY.

Scarborough has an abundant supply of water lying underground close at hand in the rocks of the middle oolitic strata. There are three pumping Stations, Irton (the main one), Osgodby (maintained as a standby), and Cayton Bay. The capacity of the Irton Station is more than four million gallons a day. The water here is coagulated and filtered and then chlorinated so as to leave not more than 0.15 parts chlorine per million in the water as supplied. The water at Cayton Bay needs no treatment.

IRTON.

Regular full bacteriological examinations were made of the unfiltered and of the filtered water — the results are summarised in the following table :

	No. of Examinations (1)	No. of colonies on agar in 3 days at 22° c (2)	No. of colonies on agar in 2 days at 37° c (3)	No. of coliform organisms in 100 c.c. (4)	Presence of Bacillus Welchii in 250 c.c. (5)
Unfiltered water	8	26-1120	2-40	13-180+	Present 4 times
Filtered water ...	8	2-136	0-24	1-13	Absent 8 times

The filtered (unchlorinated) water was also examined regularly for the presence of the Bacillus Coli only and this was absent from 100 c.c. on 14 occasions, present in numbers varying from 1 to 35 on 31 occasions, and once rose to 90 in 100 c.c. The higher numbers were found in July and August.

The chlorinated water as supplied was examined regularly throughout the year for the presence of bacillus coli, the samples being taken from premises in all parts of the town. Bacillus coli was absent from 100 c.c. on 113 occasions, and present (1 in 100 c.c.) on 3 occasions.

CAYTON BAY.

Four full examinations during the year showed :

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4	1 — 3	1 — 4	0	absent

Three tests for Bacillus coli only in 100 c.c. were all negative.

OSGODBY.

Three full examinations gave :

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
3	4 — 52	1 — 2	0 — 2	absent

Two tests for Bacillus coli only were negative.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The North Bay Swimming Pool and the Orleton and Aquarium Baths (both in use by the Royal Air Force) were kept under bacteriological control with satisfactory results.

(E) HOUSING.

No new houses were built during the year.

Nine houses were recommended for the making of demolition orders. In three cases the owners gave undertakings that the houses would not be used in future for human habitation, in three cases demolition orders were made, in two cases the houses were made fit, and the remaining case was pending at the end of the year.

A Closing Order was recommended and made in the case of one house.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

to the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report detailing the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, 1944.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Inspections of houses and premises (general)	...	...	...	3,957
„ made under the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	4
Re-inspections and re-visits	...	...	...	1,016
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	1,401
Inspections made under Factory and Workshops Act	...	...	...	22
„ „ of bakehouses	...	...	...	56
„ „ of offensive trade premises	...	...	...	26
„ „ under Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919	...	...	...	3,220
„ „ of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	606
„ „ under Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	277
„ „ of dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	...	...	...	217
„ „ of common lodging houses	...	...	...	52
„ „ of public lavatories	...	...	...	69
„ „ of restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	81
Drains tested	...	...	...	73
Inspections of market and fish piers	...	...	...	39
Visits re enquiries into infectious cases	...	...	...	56
Premises disinfected and disinfested	...	...	...	273

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices (Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	219
„ „ Housing Acts	...	...	...	—
Statutory Notices (Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	56
„ „ Housing Act, 1936 (Sec. 9)	...	...	...	—
„ „ Milk and Dairies Order	...	...	...	—
				<hr/> 275 <hr/>

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There was one registered Common Lodging House during the year.

The number of beds occupied was as under :

Men	...	...	...	...	...	4,429
Women	...	...	...	...	...	—
Children	...	...	...	...	...	—

The general conditions of cleanliness and management have been good.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are three offensive trade businesses established within the Borough, enumerated as follows :

Tripe boilers	...	...	...	...	2
Gut scrapers	...	...	...	...	1

All were conducted satisfactorily.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Cowkeepers and purveyors of milk on the register at the end of the year were as follows :

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	9
Wholesale dealers	...	...	...	...	21
Retail purveyors	...	...	...	...	63
Number of registered dairies	...	...	...	...	42
Purveyors of bottled milk only	...	...	...	...	37

SAMPLES PROCURED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION, ETC.

No. of SAMPLES TAKEN	ARTICLE	RESULT OF EXAMINATION			
32	Undesignated Milk	B. Coli absent from 1/100 c.c.	...	...	24
		B. Coli present in 1/100 c.c.	...	...	8
		Low bacteria count	...	...	32
		High bacteria count	...	...	—
65	T.T. milk	Satisfied M.Blue test	...	...	57
		Failed to satisfy M.Blue test	...	...	8
		Satisfied Coliform test	...	...	55
		Failed to satisfy Coliform test	...	...	10
10	Accredited milk	Satisfied M.Blue test	...	...	9
		Failed to satisfy M.Blue test	...	...	1
		Satisfied Coliform test	...	...	10
		Failed to satisfy Coliform test	...	...	—
72	Pasteurised milk	Satisfied prescribed test	...	...	65
		Failed to satisfy prescribed test	...	...	7
		Satisfied phosphatase test	...	...	26
		Failed to satisfy phosphatase test	...	...	46
42	Designated and undesignated milks	Biological — negative for tuberculosis	...	...	42
		„ — positive for tuberculosis	...	...	—

MILK AND DAIRIES AMENDMENT ACT, 1922.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-1943.

The number of licenses issued during the year to use the Special Designations was as follows :

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	10
Accredited	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	5

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 48 samples were procured and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, as under :

ARTICLES	SATISFACTORY			UNSATIS- FACTORY	TOTAL
Milk	38	3	41
Cooking fat	1	-	1
Ice Cream substitute	3	-	3
Whisky	3	-	3
TOTALS			45	3	48

In one instance (deficiency of milk fat) a letter of caution was sent to the vendor. The other two were informal samples.

In all three cases, further samples were proved to be satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following articles, being unfit for human food, have been surrendered by the owners for the purpose of destruction :

Weight —				Tons	cwts.	sts.	lbs.
Beast carcasses	...	...	...	7	6	4	2
Sheep and lamb carcasses	...	...	...		8	3	13
Pig carcasses	...	...	...		10	2	10
Beef (parts of carcasses)	...	...	...		8	3	6
Mutton (parts of carcasses)	...	...	...				10
Pork (parts of carcasses)	...	...	...		3	-	3
Beast offal	...	...	...	7	19	5	8
Sheep offal	...	...	...		3	2	6
Pig offal	...	...	...			6	9
Other foods	...	...	...	5	4	3	10
TOTAL				22	5	1	7

During the year the following animals were slaughtered :

Beasts	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
2,021	926	122	1,109	287	14,733

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Sustained efforts were made during the year for the destruction of rats and mice. There were 865 complaints received, and 3,220 inspections made. Advice and assistance were given in each instance.

Two full time rodent operatives were employed investigating all premises known to be or suspected of harbouring rats. Allotments, tips, piggeries and other suspected premises which rats usually infest, were inspected frequently, and the necessary measures taken to eliminate the rodents found.

A special publicity campaign was launched on the instigation of the Ministry of Food, when special attention was paid to the Ministry's food dumps. Sewers in parts of the town were treated several times in the year, and good results obtained.

A total number of 615 bodies of rats were received at the Corporation Depot, Dean Road. In addition to this number, the rodent operatives caught a further 3,951 rats.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. STEPHENSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

